

**Town of Webster  
Office of Select Board  
945 Battle Street  
Webster, NH 03303  
Final Minutes – November 9, 2015  
Approved November 23, 2015**

Staff Present: Bruce Johnson, Roger Becker, Michael Borek, Wendy Pinkham, Bob Dupuis, Rob Wolinski, Emmett Bean and Leslie Palmer

Public Present: Tom Mullins, Rachel Gagnon, Sue Roberts, Tara Gunnigle, Jon Pearson, Barbara Corliss, Jaye Bowe, John Clark, Sam Bogrett

Chairman Johnson opened the meeting at 5:30 PM.

Police Chief Bob Dupuis presented or advised the Board of the following:

- 57 calls for service in the last two weeks; 61 calls for service in the two weeks prior.
- Chief Dupuis received quotes from Arcomm for replacing the phone system at the safety building. He will meet with other administrative staff to also review a quote from TDS Telecom.
- Chairman Johnson provided the public in attendance with an update on the Police Chief recruitment.

The Board signed the following for Administrative Assistant Leslie Palmer:

- Selectman Becker moved to accept the 10/26/2015 Select Board minutes as amended to clarify language in first bullet point under the "Public Comments" section as recommended by Tax Collector. Selectman Borek seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was approved.
- Selectman Becker moved to accept the 11/02/2015 Select Board minutes as written. Selectman Borek seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was approved.
- Selectman Becker moved to accept the 10/26/2015 Select Board non-public minutes as written. Selectman Borek seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was approved.
- Selectman Borek moved to nominate Nanci Schofield to finish the term of an outgoing member through 2017 as an Alternate to the Planning Board. Selectman Becker seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was approved.
- Sales validation is complete; the Department of Revenue Administration identified 24 qualified sales in Webster in 2014-2015.
- Judy Jones will work with Administrative Assistant Palmer to write deeds for the Pillsbury Lake Town lots sold.

Financial Administrator Wendy Pinkham presented the following to the Board:

- The Select Board signed the payroll and accounts payable manifests and a timber bill.

Fire Chief Rob Wolinski presented or advised the Board of the following:

- 130 calls to date; 9 calls in the last two weeks.
- Flow tests on the air packs have been completed.
- The NH Swat Team ambulance continues to be temporarily housed at the safety building.
- The Joint Loss Committee, as part of its analysis of the Safety Building, identified the need to replace the weather stripping on five of the six garage doors. Chief Wolinski received a quote of \$188 per door to have the weather stripping installed; Selectman Borek asked that he get some other quotes and contact Chairman Johnson.
- Chief Wolinski requested a PO for pagers to be ordered from Beltronics for \$1,735. Also, he will provide Administrator Pinkham with the bill for the completed pump test.

Road Agent Emmett Bean:

- Road Agent Bean provided the Board with an update of road work to date.
- Work related to Pond Hill Rd was discussed. Town Counsel confirmed that work related to saving the environment is permissible on a Class VI road. Road Agent Bean will be meeting with Erin Darrow of Right Angle Engineering on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> to review work to be completed prior to winter.
- Road Agent Bean and Sue Roberts addressed the Board regarding communication with the Board and liability concerning road work. Selectman Becker will meet with them on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the issues further.
- Road Agent Bean asked for a PO for the purchase of a plow wing from White's Farm. Selectman Borek moved to approve the purchase of a plow wing for \$300.00 from White's Farm. Selectman Becker seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion was approved.

Tom Mullins addressed the Select Board to discuss the 13% increase to the Town's portion of the 2015 tax bill. He referenced the spending down of the reserve fund and worried about the costs of upcoming projects. Further discussion followed regarding items that drive the cost of the annual budget such as health insurance. Selectman Becker noted that revenues are down and that the School

and County portion of the tax bill continues to rise, which greatly affects the ultimate tax rate.

Rachel Gagnon met with the Select Board to discuss a recent incident in which the Road Agent marked out the right of way on a piece of her property with pink ribbons. She had been away and when she returned, she saw the ribbons but did not know who had put them there or why. The Police Chief came to her home to explain that a trailer on the property was within the right of way and needed to be moved so as not to impact road work and plowing on the road. The ribbons were placed there to show both Ms. Gagnon and the Police Chief the area of concern. Ms. Gagnon felt that a simple knock on the door would have been sufficient to explain the situation to her and that the actions taken were a waste of time and taxpayer dollars and set a bad tone. Road Agent Bean confirmed that it did not cost the Town any additional money for him to mark out the area. It was also clarified that the Police Chief routinely follows up on such matters because the Road Agent has been threatened in the past when approaching homeowners regarding right of way issues. Following further discussion, the Select Board recommended that a phone call made to a homeowner in such a circumstance would help to alleviate misunderstandings and concerns.

#### **Old Business:**

- The Select Board recently met with representatives from NH DOT to discuss Clothespin Bridge. The latest inspection report is due in about a month. Chairman Johnson submitted for review a timeline of money to be allocated as well as work to be done. Road Agent Bean expressed his concern for continued funding of the state bridge aid program. The issues surrounding Clothespin Bridge will be discussed further through budget season.

#### **Budget Work Session:**

- The Select Board reviewed a proposal from TDS for a digital phone system; Administrative Assistant Palmer and staff will meet with a TDS representative to discuss further. Warrant articles and election costs were reviewed. Administrator Pinkham provided the Board with a health insurance packet outlining costs for next year. The Select Board will meet with a Health Trust representative to discuss health insurance trends and related costs on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Selectman Becker asked that salaries be added at current levels to be reviewed at the next budget work session.

#### **Public Comment:**

- Barbara Corliss referenced the capital reserve fund for Clothespin Bridge and asked if the Town could save money in the FT Police Chief line item by not hiring a full time Chief.
- Sam Boggett referenced the new vertical Deer Meadow Rd sign; Road Agent Bean explained that the sign was designed to correct the problem of trucks turning down a homeowner's driveway as opposed to turning down Deer Meadow Rd.
- John Clark recommended that the Select Board develop talking points related to the hiring of a full time Police Chief such as changes to the retirement system which limits the hours worked per week. He also recommended conducting impact studies related to Clothespin Bridge.
- Jaye Bowe noted that at one point, Copart offered to fix Clothespin Bridge and asked what became of that conversation. Chairman Johnson explained that Copart offered to fix Clothespin Bridge Rd, which leads to Concord, but when they looked at the extensive work that would be needed to repair the bridge portion, Copart stopped communication on the topic.
- Tara Gunnigle recommended that the Board hold a public meeting in addition to the budget hearing to inform the public on the process. She also spoke in favor of separating the operating budget into separate warrant articles. She also reported that EMTs would like input into the decision to purchase a new ambulance.
- Jon Pearson referenced internal friction between staff and the Select Board.

Following the Public Comment portion of the meeting, Ms. Gunnigle presented the Board with a petition asking the Board to postpone the hiring of a Police Chief until after Town Meeting to allow for citizens to have more input into the process.

At 7:47 PM, Chairman Johnson requested to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 IIc, to discuss "matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board." Roll call was taken, Chairman Johnson - yes, Selectman Becker - yes, Selectman Borek - yes.

A motion was made by Chairman Johnson to come out of Non-Public Session at 8:04 PM and Selectman Becker seconded. All in favor, the motion was approved.

A motion was made by Chairman Johnson to seal the Non-Public minutes. Roll call was taken, Chairman Johnson - yes, Selectman Becker - yes, Selectman Borek - yes.

8:10 PM, Chairman Johnson made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Selectman Becker and approved.

*Respectfully Submitted, Leslie M. Palmer*